

House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform and the NH and Federal Constitutions.



"Trust but Verify"

Thursday, March 13, 2025
Regular Calendar

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB639, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies. **Maj. OTP/A 0445h; Min. ITL Vote: 14-3**

HRA Analysis: The bill is based on the findings of Governor Sununu's Commission on Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets Report. Bill sets up a framework for use of crypto-currencies in NH, so that no state or local government agency or subdivision thereof shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise impair the ability of an individual to use digital assets to purchase legal goods or services. It also makes it legal to for any person to engage in home digital asset mining if they meet current noise restrictions and for digital asset mining to be allowed in areas zoned for industrial use.

Principle: Platform: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small business" & "Support and develop a robust technology infrastructure throughout NH"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB59, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer. **Maj. OTP/A 0590h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes the crime of knowingly assaulting an emergency worker and causing serious bodily injury, a first degree assault. The same assault causing bodily injury would be 2nd degree assault. This bill does not make assaulting an emergency worker more serious than anyone else, but codifies it as a distinct crime of its own.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB87, prohibiting the posting of land not owned by the poster. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6**

HRA Analysis: Any person who knowingly places a sign or poster prohibiting certain physical activity on the land pursuant to RSA 635:4 on any land that the person knows that he or she has no legal right to nor any reasonable basis for belief of having such a right, shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor

Principle: NH Constitution Part First, Art. 2: "All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB159, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities. **Maj. OTP/A 0487h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill mandates the names of those who have been involuntarily committed be added to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). With no process to remove your name from this list, this action effectively, permanently, strips law abiding citizens of their constitutionally protected rights. Amendment fails to address the issues of putting people who have NOT committed a crime (involuntary commitments for temporary mental health issues) into a criminal database. Amendment also fails to ensure that citizens can have their rights fully restored.

Principle: NH Constitution Part First, Art. 2-a: "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state." & [Art.] 2-b "An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent." & Platform: Protect the rights of law-abiding individuals to own and carry firearms.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Amendment; Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB183, relative to reporting requirements for emergency medical services personnel. **OTP Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill helps relieve the unfunded mandate put on emergency medical services to complete the medical report within 24 hours. If a call comes in close to the end of their shift, it does not make good fiscal sense to force a municipality to pay overtime for a routine call report.

Principle: Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB592, relative to magistrates and the standards applicable to and the administration of bail. **Maj. OTP/A 0448h; Min. OTP/A 0596h Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: Reverts to the bail law prior to 2018, except it narrowly adds the ability to get PR bail rather than remove it entirely for low level crimes where they aren't a flight risk.

Principle: Platform: "Support the people's oversight of the Judiciary through their elected Legislature." & "condemn lawlessness"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Education Funding

HB115, relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program. **Maj. OTP/A 0651h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Small increase in EFAs in the first year (400% of poverty), then universal in the second year.

Principle: Platform: "support universal education freedom accounts"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB319, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide transportation and meals for pupils in kindergarten. **Maj. OTP/A 0345h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill only affects half-day kindergarten, and the committee amendment makes it just about transportation, not meals. It says that schools that provide half-day kindergarten do not have to provide transportation for those students. The problem is that half-day students are on a different schedule from everyone else, so in many cases a nearly empty mid-day bus would have to take those students on an extra-long route in the middle of the day. Half-day students will have to have adult supervision for a significant part of the day anyways, so it is likely that someone will be able to pick them up or drop them off mid-day.

Principle: Platform: "Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB527, replacing the statewide education property tax with a local revenue contribution. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-2**

HRA Analysis: This is a very honest bill that simply eliminates the statewide education property tax (SWEPT) and replaces it with more local property tax. Since SWEPT is a polite fiction, this bill has no net effect on money. It just points out the lie that the state is paying those \$363M SWEPT dollars to the schools. The only practical problem is that it would have the effect of putting the state even more out of compliance with the Claremont court rulings, which many would find objectionable.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB563, relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services. **OTP/A 0650h Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: The bill as amended makes small increases in the amounts of funds in the various categories of the adequate education formula. It also changes a part of the formula to moderate the oversized increase in adequate education that Manchester got in the previous budget. The new formula is better based on estimates of actual costs, particularly in the area of special ed, but overall it is not a significant departure from the status quo.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB646, requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0453h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: As the title says, this would require school districts to accept applications for the free and reduced meals program online. The majority of the committee decided to step back for once from this level of micromanagement.

Principle: Platform: "Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB675, increasing the total revenue raised under the statewide education property tax, requiring municipalities to remit excess statewide education property tax payments to the department of revenue administration, limiting the authority of school districts to make certain appropriations, and increasing base adequacy costs per pupil. **Maj. OTP/A 0548h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The original bill was a comprehensive attempt to deal with the Conval and Rand lawsuits in a way that would eventually benefit most local property taxpayers. The committee amendment greatly simplifies the bill to only be about a cap on school budgets. They would be allowed to grow if student population increases, or with a 2/3rds vote of the electorate. Without limitations on spending, property taxes will continue to rise with no end in sight.

Principle: Platform: "low taxes are the result of low spending" & "Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB703, relative to prohibiting school districts from denying meals to students with unpaid meal balances, and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0434h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would end the ability of schools to collect for unpaid student cafeteria accounts. There should be SOME limit on the financial burden the taxpayer is forced to assume.

Principle: Platform: "Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB739, relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for the use of school districts. **Maj. OTP/A 0680h; Min. ITL Vote: 17-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill ends the practice of allowing towns to keep the statewide property tax payments they collect when those payments exceed the adequate money the state owes them. Brings back "donor" towns. This was the main subject of the Rand lawsuit, which the state lost. The way SWEPT is now collected, it is not proportional. Two otherwise identical properties in different parts of the state can be charged a very different state tax based on characteristics of their school population. This bill is about making state-level taxes uniform throughout the state.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1, Art 5: "levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and residents within, the said state"

HRA Recommendation: Support Am 2025-0608h; Support OTP/A

HB773, relative to aid to school districts for the cost of special education. **OTP/A 0714h Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended reduces the amount of proration that could happen to special ed "catastrophic aid" payments to schools if the legislature fails to allocate enough funds to cover the expense in the budget. It effectively just changes a formula used to apportion aid.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Education Policy and Administration

HB667, relative to health education and requiring the viewing of certain videos demonstrating gestational development from embryo to fetus through birth by public school students and college or university students. **Maj. OTP/A 0615h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The amended bill relates to health and sex education. It mandates that the curriculum is age appropriate and medically accurate while promoting abstinence and adoption. It also requires a video showing the development of a baby from fertilization.

Principle: Platform: "Promote legislation for age appropriate materials that are not harmful to minors in schools." & "Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement."

HRA Recommendation: Support AM 2025-0615h; Support OTP/A

Election Law

HB365, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a necessary and responsible process for verifying voter citizenship while ensuring that indigent voters are not disenfranchised due to financial hardship.

Principle: Platform: "support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB521, authorizing online voter registration. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. There is no demonstrated need for the addition of online voter registration.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB714, creating a single primary ballot. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a single primary undermining the true democratic choice by reducing competition, distorting representation, and weakening political parties. By allowing the top vote-getters to advance regardless of party, this system risks producing general elections where only candidates from the same party appear on the ballot—silencing opposition voices and leaving many voters without a real alternative.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Executive Departments and Administration

HB52, relative to legal holidays. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates new holidays (primary days) and defines that, for all state holidays, government employees get the day off. Private employers are "encouraged" to grant three hours off.

Principle: Platform: "Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB536, relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 8-7**

HRA Analysis: This grants everyone who has been retired for five years a cost of living increase of up to \$750. It funds this by downshifting the cost to the property taxpayers, a total of \$6.6 million over 20 years (the cost is financed). Private fixed benefit pensions are fixed and COLAs are vanishingly unusual.

Principle: Platform: "always limit spending and growth of government" & "Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB570, relative to membership of the prescription drug affordability board and the definition of public payor for purposes of board administration. **Maj. OTP/A 0190h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill repeals the PDAB which is ineffective and redundant.

Principle: Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" & "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 0190h; Support OTP/A; Oppose OTP without the amendment

HB581, establishing a state retirement plan group for new state employee members of the retirement system. **without recommendation Vote: 8-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a defined contribution pension plan for new, regular (not police, corrections or fire), state (not municipal or school) employees. Unlike the antiquated defined benefit plan we have now, it is the same kind of plan that the private sector and many public entities, such as UNH, offer their employees. Today's mobile employees change jobs many times in their career. Our current plan does not work for them. Fewer than half get vested so that they can get any benefits. This negatively affects the ability of the state to hire. Spending should be as efficient as possible. Today's taxpayers should pay for today's employees without pushing those costs on later generations. While this is sound policy, this will slow payment of the retirement fund debt because these members would no longer be a member and therefore not paying into the plan to help pay off the debt.

Principle: Platform: "Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector" & "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending" & "cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB637, relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65 for certain group I retirement system members. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill delays the pension cut from age 65 to the social security full retirement age, a period of up to two years, for a small group that retired before the effective date of last session's bill. Defined benefit pensions are set at retirement, so this is a retrospective change.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 2, Art. 23: "Retrospective laws are highly injurious, oppressive, and unjust."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB645, relative to data collection and reporting requirements of the prescription drug affordability board. **OTP/A 0505h Vote: 17-0**

HRA Analysis: As amended this provides the Prescription Drug Affordability Board with access to data which can support the board's mission of increasing pricing transparency and reducing costs for public payers. *Repealing this board with HB570*

Principle: Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" & "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support Table

Housing

HB572, establishing the "partners in housing" program, a low-interest loan and grant program under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building workforce housing. **OTP/A 0560h Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates "partnership in housing" program, an initiative under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building modestly priced housing on municipally or county-owned land that is suitable for development. \$10.5m appropriation.

Principle: Platform: "always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Judiciary

HB611, abolishing recoupment procedures regarding appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants. **Maj. OTP/A 0638h; Min. OTP/A 0611h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: As originally filed, this bill stops recoupment of funds for indigent defendants. As amended, this bill requires the repayment of appointed counsel, if there is financial ability, regardless if the defendant is guilty or not.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 2, Art 15: "Every person held to answer in any crime or offense punishable by deprivation of liberty shall have the right to counsel at the expense of the state if need is shown" - but only if need is shown.

HRA Recommendation: Support 2025-0638h; Oppose 2025-0611h; Support OTP/A (If 2025-0611h passes, Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL)

HB615, relative to drug forfeiture proceedings. **ITL Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill is an attempt to simplify court procedure and increase fairness in the case where property can be forfeit in conjunction with a drug prosecution. Right now the criminal and property cases are brought in a different courts, with a different prosecutors and often with no defense counsel for the property case. Since the crime is a single event all aspects should be tried together. This would lower costs (fewer proceedings and people), and be fairer (the same counsel can work both parts). Unfortunately, the very lengthy bill proved to be too big a bite for the committee to swallow.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB762, appropriating \$30,000 to the judicial branch for the purpose of hiring a contractor to conduct a manual review of domestic violence and stalking cases and related criminal cases. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0576h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would appropriate \$30,000 to the judiciary for hiring a contractor to review domestic violence and stalking cases for the purpose of gathering data. However, the bill lacks specificity regarding the type of data to be collected and its intended use. Transitioning to electronic filing would not only facilitate ongoing data collection but also prove to be a more cost-effective long-term solution.

Principle: Platform: "We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Municipal and County Government

HB149, relative to warrant article approvals at ballot referenda form of town meeting. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-2**

HRA Analysis: If citizen petition warrant articles are amended, both the original and the modified warrant articles would be included on the ballot for citizens to vote on.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB512, relative to preventing municipal employees from being paid under multiple municipal contracts simultaneously. **ITL Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: If an employee is fired and is re-hired in another town, they currently can be paid simultaneously in both towns, despite only working in one. The bill as written would limit SAUs and municipalities from getting and retaining part-time skilled workers. Some schools and municipalities do not have the demand for a full-time worker. The bill doesn't provide a distinction between part time and full time.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB643, expanding the number of Grafton County commissioners. **ITL Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill expands the number of Grafton County commissioners from 3 to 5, and provides that all such commissioners shall be elected to 2-year terms.

According to the bills fiscal note, it will increase the Grafton County budget by \$38,000 in 2026 with additional costs each additional year.

Principle: Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB668, authorizing municipalities to hold a referendum to rescind the licenses of historic horse racing facilities. **ITL Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill would authorize municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to prohibit the sale of parimutuel wagers on historic horse racing. The committee had previously passed HB 247-Local which authorized municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to allow the sale of parimutuel wagers on historic horse racing

Principle: No Platform or Constitutional issues

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Science, Technology and Energy

HB219, relative to the phasing out of the minimum electric renewable portfolio standard. **Maj. OTP/A 0678h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill's amendment saves ratepayers \$5.7M in RPS charges. It: 1) eliminates RECs for wind energy projects mandated by government (e.g. by MA); 2) eliminates Class II RECs for new solar; 3) reduces the REC obligation from 2.2% to 1.7% for useful thermal energy; 4) establishes lower ACP prices consistent with other NE states.

Principle: Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs...."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB696, exempting electricity generators from the utility property tax and including them under the statewide education property tax, and relative to communications services tax revenues. **OTP Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill exempts electrical power generators (who are not utilities, but rather private entities) from the utility property tax and subjects them to the statewide education property tax. It is essentially revenue neutral. It reduces the conflict between DRA and municipal assessments.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB764, prohibiting the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding, weather modification, excessive electromagnetic radio frequency, and microwave radiation and making penalties for violation of such prohibition. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-1**

HRA Analysis: Amendment 0677h failed 9-9; Amendment 0214h was rejected 17-1. Both amendments repeal RSA 12-F (Weather Modification Experimentation) and require the DES send notice to 25 federal government agencies including NOAA, NASA & DOD that NH is not open for geoengineering. The text of Amendment 0677h will likely be offered as a FLAM. It's language is more suitable statutory construction.

Principle: Platform: "We believe dumping toxic chemicals into the air in order to mitigate the supposed threat of global warming by blocking the sun is insane and dangerous, that geoengineering in all its forms must be opposed in order to preserve the beauty and environment of New Hampshire."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support Amendment 0969h; Support OTP/A

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HB264, relative to delegates to an Article V convention. **OTP Vote: 15-2**

HRA Analysis: It's in our best interest to alleviate fears concerning faithless or "rogue" delegates at any Article V Convention of States for proposing constitutional amendments. This bill establishes that a Class B felony status be applied to any faithless delegate who approves or proposes amendments that were not included in the original application to the convention, as well as by any state decree. While any such "rogue" amendment would be ruled out of order anyway—as established via long-standing practices re: interstate compacts concerning water and river access amongst states, etc.—the penalties for delegates who exceed their mandates are by design steep enough so as to put trepidation to rest about proper delegate actions at any states convention.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Transportation

HB452, relative to the issuance of drivers' licenses for aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: Mandating that a driver's license issued to a nonresident alien shall not be considered valid identification of identity or residence for state voter registration or any other purpose related to local, state, or federal voting.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Ways and Means

HB658, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the amount in the ODD fund to address environmental issues. Fund is running on empty due to the number of poor and low income residents assisted in getting new and improved oil tanks for their houses, trailers.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB669, relative to requiring all revenue raised under the statewide education property tax to be deposited in the education trust fund, and setting an equalized statewide tax rate. **ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: Another attempt to shift funding by the State to the Education Trust Fund. Increases Statewide Property Tax in 2026 to \$5/mil, increasing what is taken from property owners by 1.26 billion dollars!

Principle: Platform: "always limit spending and growth of government"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Removed from Consent Calendar

Municipal and County Government

HB123, enabling municipalities to tax standing wood and timber on land used for carbon sequestration. **OTP/A 0654h Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended provides for the assessment of a carbon sequestration tax on the revenue from the sale of standing wood and timber enrolled or registered for the purpose of generating carbon offset credits. It can be considered that this is clarifying the taxation allowed in RSA 79:5 for not harvesting the timber. Allowing the taxation would provide a method for opposing this carbon credit program, while benefiting the towns. Finally timber study report is due Nov 2025.

Principle: Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees." & "Oppose all ... programs ... from ... organizations and governments contrary to our principles: including, but not limited to, sustainable development initiatives, and punitive environmental controls."

HRA Recommendation: Support Table